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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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April 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR NSC Review Complete as Redacted.

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Executive Secretary
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Executive Assistant to the United
States Representative to the
United NationsColonel George A. Joulwan
Executive Assistant to the
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Acting Executive Secretary
Arms Control and Disarmament AgencyDr. George A. Keyworth
Director
Office of Science and Technology
Policy

SUBJECT: NSC Meeting on Strategic Forces (C)

Attached are background materials for your use in preparing for the National Security Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 11, 1983, in the Cabinet Room, to discuss Strategic Forces, particularly Peacekeeper (M-X). Please note that the background materials are sent to you on a close-hold basis. (C)

*Michael O. Wheeler*Michael O. Wheeler
Staff Secretary

Attachment

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Report of the President's Commission
On Strategic Forces

I. Deterrence and Arms Control

The responsibility given to this Commission is to review the purpose, character, size, and composition of the strategic forces of the United States. The members of the Commission fully understand not only the purposes for which this nation maintains its deterrent, but also the devastating nature of nuclear warfare, should deterrence fail. The Commission believes that effective arms control is an essential element in diminishing the risk of nuclear war -- while preserving our liberties and those of like-minded nations. At the same time the Commission is persuaded that as we consider the threat of mass destruction we must consider simultaneously the threat of aggressive totalitarianism. Both are central to the political dilemmas of our age. For the United States and its allies the essential dual task of statecraft is, and must be, to avoid the first and contain the second.

It is only by addressing these two issues together that we can begin to understand how to preserve both liberty and peace. Although the United States and the Soviet Union hold fundamentally incompatible views of history, of the nature of society, and of the individual's place in it, the existence of nuclear weapons imbues that rivalry with peril unprecedented in human history. The temptation is sometimes great to simplify -- or oversimplify -- the difficult problems that result, either by blinking at the devastating

GLOSSARY

(NOTE: These explanations of some technical terms used in strategic analysis are provided for quick reference and they do not have legal or official standing.)

Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) - See Ballistic Missile Defense.

Arms Control - The process of limiting or reducing arms to lessen the risk of conflict and to reduce the consequences of a conflict should it occur. The purpose of arms control is to increase our national security.

Ballistic Missile - A missile whose propulsion system consists of rockets which burn early in the flight of the missile. After the rockets burn out, the payload coasts on to the target on a "ballistic trajectory" like a bullet fired from a rifle.

Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) - A defensive system which destroys incoming ballistic missiles or their warheads. Up to this time, the greatest amount of work has been done on BMD approaches which use interceptor missiles armed with small nuclear warheads. The Soviets actually have such a system deployed in limited numbers around Moscow. BMD developments in the future could center around very different concepts such as non-nuclear homing warheads or lasers. The term "Anti-Ballistic Missile System" or "ABM" is often used interchangeably.

Command, Control, and Communications (C³) - The complete set of hardware, people, and procedures used by the national leadership and commanders at all levels to direct and monitor the operation of military forces in the conduct of their day-to-day activities and wartime missions.



Strategic Forces Technical Assessment Review Executive Summary

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